

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1677
24 June 2002

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 2002 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE
TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE
TREATY BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA ON FURTHER REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC
OFFENSIVE ARMS (START II TREATY)**

I have the honour to forward herewith the statement dated 14 June 2002 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the legal status of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II Treaty).

I would be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Leonid SKOTNIKOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE
TREATY BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON FURTHER REDUCTION
AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS**

In May 2000, the Russian Federation ratified the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II Treaty) and the New York memoranda of understanding of 26 September 1997 on the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. In this connection, there was a mutual understanding with the United States of America that it would act in like manner. This would have made it possible to put into effect these important agreements concerning the strategic offensive and defensive arms of the two countries.

The United States has, however, refused to ratify the START II Treaty and the New York memoranda of understanding. In addition, on 13 June 2002, the United States withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, with the result that this international legal instrument, which for three decades stood as the cornerstone of strategic stability, is no longer valid. In the light of these actions by the United States and on the basis of the provisions of the Federal Act ratifying the START II Treaty, the Russian Federation notes that none of the prerequisites for the entry into force of the START II Treaty exist and no longer considers itself bound by the obligation under international law to refrain from actions that could deprive this Treaty of its object and purpose.

14 June 2002
